



Shelter was built using styrofoam blocks with hollow cores filled with concrete.

Tornado Shelter Provides Safe Haven For Farm Family

An Illinois farm family that has seen a number of severe storms come through their area over the past few years, decided to put up a solid, underground shelter that they could go to during severe weather.

With an interior dimension of 12 by 16 ft., owner John Readnour, Assumption, Ill., says it's big enough to comfortably hold the whole family and can be used for storage as well.

This spring, as the shelter was being built, two tornados passed overhead and touched down nearby.

The shelter was built into a natural grade where there's enough drainage to carry

moisture away from the structure. It was built using styrofoam blocks with hollow cores that are filled with concrete, resulting in thick, sound-proof walls.

The shelter is self-contained with its own water system and electricity, separate from the home. Rednour plans to cover the top of the shelter with a foot or more of soil and plant it with vetch so it will not require mowing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Readnour, Assumption, Ill. 62510 (ph 217 226-3361).



A Michigan company says it's doing a booming business in making prefabricated steel foundations like this one.

Steel Foundations Catching On Fast

Steel foundations cost less, take less time to install and are warranted for 50 years, says Steelmasters, a Michigan company that's doing a booming business in prefabricated steel foundations.

"Steel basements cost 5 percent less than concrete per linear foot," says Steelmaster's Steve Van Haitmsa.

Plus, the steel walls can be easily insulated up to R30, he adds. Electric, heating and water ducts are easier to run through the wall cavities and sheet rock can be attached right to them without furring out. Three or four men can install the system in a day, compared with concrete which can take several days to lay and up to a couple weeks to dry and cure.

The patent-pending system consists of a combination of galvanized steel studs and track, and galvanized painted steel siding, covered with a waterproof insulating membrane.

The walls are available in three stud sizes. For larger homes, or if you want 9-ft. basement ceilings, 8-in. walls are used. For

smaller homes or walkouts, 6-in. walls are used.

Full basement walls are generally built with studs at 16-in. centers and completely covered with steel decking and foam membrane. Walkout walls extend from the frost line up to the floor joists, generally with studs on 24-in. centers and the below-grade portion coated with a waterproof coating. "Daylight walls" are a combination of both wall types.

The steel panels sit on a concrete footing wrapped in a 60 ml. rubber boot. Panels are set with a hardened nail into the footing, and the concrete floor is then poured, locking panels in place.

A limited 50-year warranty ensures against any structural rusting of the system, Van Haitmsa notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steelmasters Inc., 1111 Godfrey Ave. SW, Suite 16, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503 (ph 800 686-5941 or 616 224-1842; fax 248-0333).

"Fraidy Hole" Provides Shelter From Storms

Unpredictable weather extremes over the past couple years have kindled a strong interest in storm shelters. Garfield Equipment, Inc. in Enid, Okla., created the "Fraidy Hole" to fill that need.

It consists of a piece of 8-ft. dia. pipe made out of 1/8-in. corrugated steel. It's covered by a flat steel plate lid and will hold 8 people comfortably. It's equipped with a ladder and handrail, an air vent hole, and a lantern hook.

The shelter installs in the ground with about 1 ft. of the pipe sticking up to keep water from getting in. When installed properly, the lid is water tight.

Its main purpose is to prevent injury and death during tornadoes.

The unit sells for \$1,245 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John



"Fraidy Hole" is an 8-ft. dia. corrugated steel pipe covered by a flat steel plate lid. It'll hold 8 people comfortably.

Green, Garfield Equipment, Inc., 5710 North Highway 81, Enid, Okla. 73701 (ph 580 242-6411).

Long Life Light Bulb Has 6 Different Filaments

If you like the idea of a long-lasting light bulb but aren't crazy about the light given off by fluorescent bulbs or the price they go for, you'll want to check out this new concept in long-life bulbs.

Charles Little's prototype "programmable" incandescent light bulb debuted at the recent Minnesota Inventors Congress at Redwood Falls, Minn.

It consists of a regular-size incandescent bulb containing 6 filaments that plug into a reusable base. The filaments can be operated singly or simultaneously in groups depending on the level of light you want. When one filament burns out, you simply turn the bulb in the base to select the next filament. When all the filaments are burned out, you simply insert a new set of filaments.

The design also allows the bulbs to be operated at different voltages, Little notes.



Bulb's 6 filaments can be operated singly or simultaneously in groups depending on how much light you want.

"It should last at least five times as long as a conventional incandescent bulb with standard filaments and should be comparably priced," he says.

Little is looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles T. Little, 6040 Janet, Taylor, Mich. 48180 (ph 313 291-8404).

No-Slip Bolt-On Pole For Decks

If you've ever tried to hang a bird feeder or flower pot off a deck, you know the bolt-down hangers on the market can be hard to keep in place.

That's why Robert Straub came up with the Utili-Pole. It mounts solidly to deck rails for hanging flags, flower pots, bird feeders, bird houses, etc.

The Utili-Pole swivels and telescopes on heavy-duty fittings. Two different types of bolt-down brackets are available. One fits tightly over a 2-in. board and is snugged down with a thumb screw. The other attaches permanently to an upright with two lag bolts. The pole swivels 360° and telescopes out from 34 in. to 60 in. It swivels on two high-density plastic bushings which allow the inner shaft to slide in and out without damaging the painted surface of the pole.

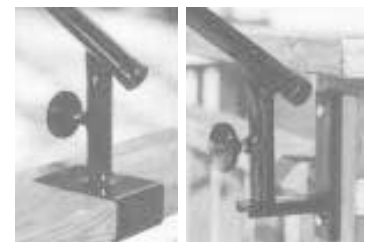
Comes in black. Other colors available upon request.

Sells for \$41.95 plus \$6 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Straub, RJS Specialties, P.O. Box 142, Sauk Centre, Minn. 56378 (ph 888 757-7732; fax 320 352-2126).



Pole mounts solidly to deck rails for hanging flags, flower pots, bird feeders, etc.



Two different types of bolt-down brackets are available. One fits over a 2-in. board and is snugged down with a thumb screw. The other attaches permanently to an upright with two lag bolts.